



AMENDMENT

Amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 2-6 without prejudice.

Amend claim 1 to read as follows (actual changes to the pending claim language are shown in the attached Appendix):

1. (Amended) An optical fiber splicer comprising:

a pair of retaining means for retaining optical fibers to be spliced;

a block having a groove of V-shaped cross-section; and

abutment and pressure-contact means for sliding terminal portions of said optical

fibers in mutually opposite directions along said groove of V-shaped cross-section producing substantially equal elastic forces in said terminal portions, bringing said terminal portions into abutment and bringing said abutted terminal portions into pressure contact, said abutment and pressure-contact means including a slide member having a first end fixed to the undersurface of said block and a second end having a laterally extending arm, a shaft having means for adjusting the vertical position of said block and an eccentric cam coaxially fixed on said shaft, a base for axially supporting said eccentric cam, and tension springs connected between said arm of said slide member and said base for energizing said slide member toward said eccentric cam, the amount of elongation of said tension springs capable of being set to avoid breakage of said fibers by pressure contact forces that exceed the stress tolerance of said fibers.

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